LES

TEMPLES IMMERGÉS DE LA NUBIE

DOCUMENTS

SUR

L'ÉTAT ANCIEN DES MONUMENTS

SERVICE DES ANTIQUITÉS DE L'ÉGYPTE

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TOME PREMIER

LE CAIRE
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PRÉFACE.

M. Maspero avait annoncé ce volume par l'«avertissement» suivant qui accompagnait le premier fascicule paru en 1912 :

«L'œuvre entreprise par le Gouvernement Égyptien ne serait pas com-«plète, si nous négligions de rechercher dans les grands dépôts européens «les documents recueillis par les voyageurs qui visitèrent la Nubie dans la «première moitié du XIXe siècle. Ils sont presque tous réunis au British «Museum et à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, mais il ne s'agit pas «pour nous de les publier tous : nous choisirons parmi eux ceux qui «montrent l'état des temples actuellement existants au temps où ils avaient «peu souffert encore, ou qui nous ont conservé des édifices ou des portions «d'édifice aujourd'hui détruites. Nous avons commencé par le British Mu-«seum, et M. Somers Clarke a bien voulu y choisir les éléments de la «présente livraison : nous continuerons la série avec son concours gracieux, «jusqu'à ce qu'il n'y ait plus rien d'inédit à prendre dans ce Musée, après «quoi nous attaquerons les réserves de la Bibliothèque Nationale.

«Le tout formera un seul volume, probablement de la taille de celui qui «contient nos *Rapports*. Les livraisons en paraîtront à des intervalles irré-«guliers, selon les ressources de notre budget : nous espérons pourtant «que notre tâche sera achevée dans trois ou quatre ans au plus tard.»

G. Maspero.

Caire, 5 novembre 1912.

Nous avons dû modifier ce programme. M. Somers Clarke avait achevé avant la guerre le choix des planches empruntées aux fonds du British

Museum. Il a bien voulu rédiger dernièrement les notices correspondantes qui nous manquaient. Tous les documents importants concernant les temples de Nubie qui sont conservés au British Museum se trouvent donc réunis dans ce volume.

Quant à ceux qui font partie des collections de la Bibliothèque Nationale, j'espère pouvoir tenir la promesse de M. Maspero dès que les circonstances rendront les publications d'art un peu moins difficiles.

P. Lacau.

Caire, 20 février 1920.

THE TEMPLE OF AMADA.

This temple, of the XVIIIth Dynasty though small, must have been one of the most carefully finished and well constructed in the Nubian valley, its sculptures quite admirable. On plate XIII we see the structure as it was early in the last century.

The dome which we see rising over the Hypostyle Hall and set up when this part of the building was used as a church was already pulled down before my first visit in 1894.

Far back in its long life, changes and enlargements were made which are easily to be read by a study of the masonry. Unfortunately the plan on plate XIV takes no notice of these changes and shows the structure as if it were all built at one time. The temple faces very much towards the West *i. e.* towards the Nile which, at this place, is making a great bend in its customary course towards the North.

On plate XV, we find several sections. At the top is a longitudinal section on the axis, the sanctuary being on our right. Below this we find two sections. That to our right shows the polygonal columns which had originally formed the front of the temple but were afterwards inclosed by the Hypostyle Hall; that to our left shows (I think) the opposite end of the Hypostyle Hall. The sections in the lowest range show, on our right the extreme end of the sanctuary with doorways opening into the side chambers, on our left the interior of the cross hall out of which the inner chambers of the temple opened.

THE TEMPLE OF SEBÛA'A.

The plan of this temple, a speos, has a near relationship to that of Garf Husên; it is also a work of the reign of Ramses II. It is, as regards its masonry, a shockingly bad specimen of the art, but it is more regular in its lines and setting-out, whilst the figures that remain are not such deformities as those we see at Garf Husèn. Happily not a little of the stately approach from the Nile to the temple has been preserved even until now, it having been very completely buried by the sand.

MIHARRAKAH.

This temple is in plan quite unlike any other that remains to us in Egypt. It consists of a court yard, open to the sky, with a colonade surrounding the

court. I venture to ask whether this building was an Egyptian temple in origin: it has no characteristics of an edifice dedicated to the Egyptian cult. The most recently built of Egyptian temples, bearing Roman inscriptions and the names of Roman emperors, are all rigidly laid out on the old lines. This building has no such characteristics. I believe that the only evidence of dedication is to be found in the shape of a greek ex-voto incised on one of the columns, mentioning Isis and Serapis.

The state of ruin seen on plate XXIII was, I think, caused by the action of the fellahin. To secure a level foundation for the masonry, the builders did here as in many other cases: they laid a massive bed of hard, sundried bricks, which are quite capable of bearing a great weight. For their own use the fellahin dug away this bed of brickwork, beginning, of course, from the exterior: ultimately the wall above fell over in one mass and to the approaching traveller presented an appearance not unlike a flight of steps, terribly dislocated.

When I first visited Miharrakah, in January 1894, the building was as we see it on plate XXIII and it was much in the same condition in 1899.

Not a little of the temple of Dakka had been overthrown in the same way, by the fellahin removing the crude brick from beneath the masonry. The doorway at Miharrakah faces towards the south. Buildings of an inferior description adjoined the East wall, but were not in structure or in plan suggestive of chambers forming more than mere adjuncts to the chief building; they formed no part of the temple (if the main building were such).

TEMPLE OF GARF HUSÊN.

This temple is the most clumsy specimen of bad workmanship and executed in the most miserable material that can well be imagined. Local labour only can have been employed.

It belongs to the same family as the temple of Abou Simbel but what a difference we find between the workmanship of the two. It is of ambitious scale which makes its bad workmanship and great inferiority to Abou Simbel the more remarkable, both of them being of the same period.

THE TEMPLE OF DENDÛR.

In this temple the structure containing three apartments is all of one work but the door in the Hypostyle Hall, in the right hand corner is of later date. The

façade faces Eastward towards the Nile. At some distance in front stands the doorway of a Pylon, clearly indicated on the plate XXVII, but the draughtsmen have omitted the foundations of the Pylon towers which are very evident, to the North and South of the doorway.

For no apparent reason this doorway is not on the true axis of the temple, but to the North of it. The line of the axis, produced through the doorway is, in an opening of 159 c. m. wide only 28 c. m. from the southern jamb. The masonry of the temple and of the Pylon doorways appears to be all of the same date. The slope of the rocky river bank rises sharply to the west (see plates XXV, XXVI). Immediately west of the temple lies a small speos. This is not built with the axis the same as that of the temple : the temple axis, produced westward, touches the north jamb of the entrance to the speos. The inner room forms the speos and is, doorway and all, cut entirely in the rock: the little porch is of poor masonry. There are evidences of many houses near the temple, built of rough stone and Nile mud.

TEMPLES AT TÂFAH.

The plan on plate XXIX («A» plan) represents a structure no longer existing. When I first visited the spot in January 1894 there was not a trace of it. It is said to have been destroyed in the later half of the XIXth century.

Plate XXX gives us a plan and elevation of the front of the temple which still exists (called «B» on this plate). It faces towards the South. The side doorway to the right of the entrance is of a later date than the façade, its mouldings suggest late Roman workmanship.

Plates XXXII and XXXIII are of unusual interest as they give us the plans of houses evidently of Roman construction and were existing in 1894. No doubt they owe their preservation to the fact that they are all built of the local stone and are sufficiently solid to resist a good deal of violence, also that stone at this place is superabundant.

The elevation of the front wall of the house shown on the plan below it, Plate XXXII, shows clearly how universal had become, in late times, the method of laying masonry, whether of brick or stone, in courses concave with the horizon. In the present case the side and backwalls are laid in the same way, whilst we observe on studying the section, which is taken through the three rooms to our left, as we examine the plan, that the interior partition walls of the house are

laid with horizontal courses. What purpose was gained by adopting this method of construction?

Immediately adjoining the Southern pylon tower of the temple at Kalabsha are the remains — in stone — of a house with the courses laid concave. In that temple itself and the works attached, I do not remember to have seen any stone-work laid in concave courses.

THE TEMPLE AT DABÛD.

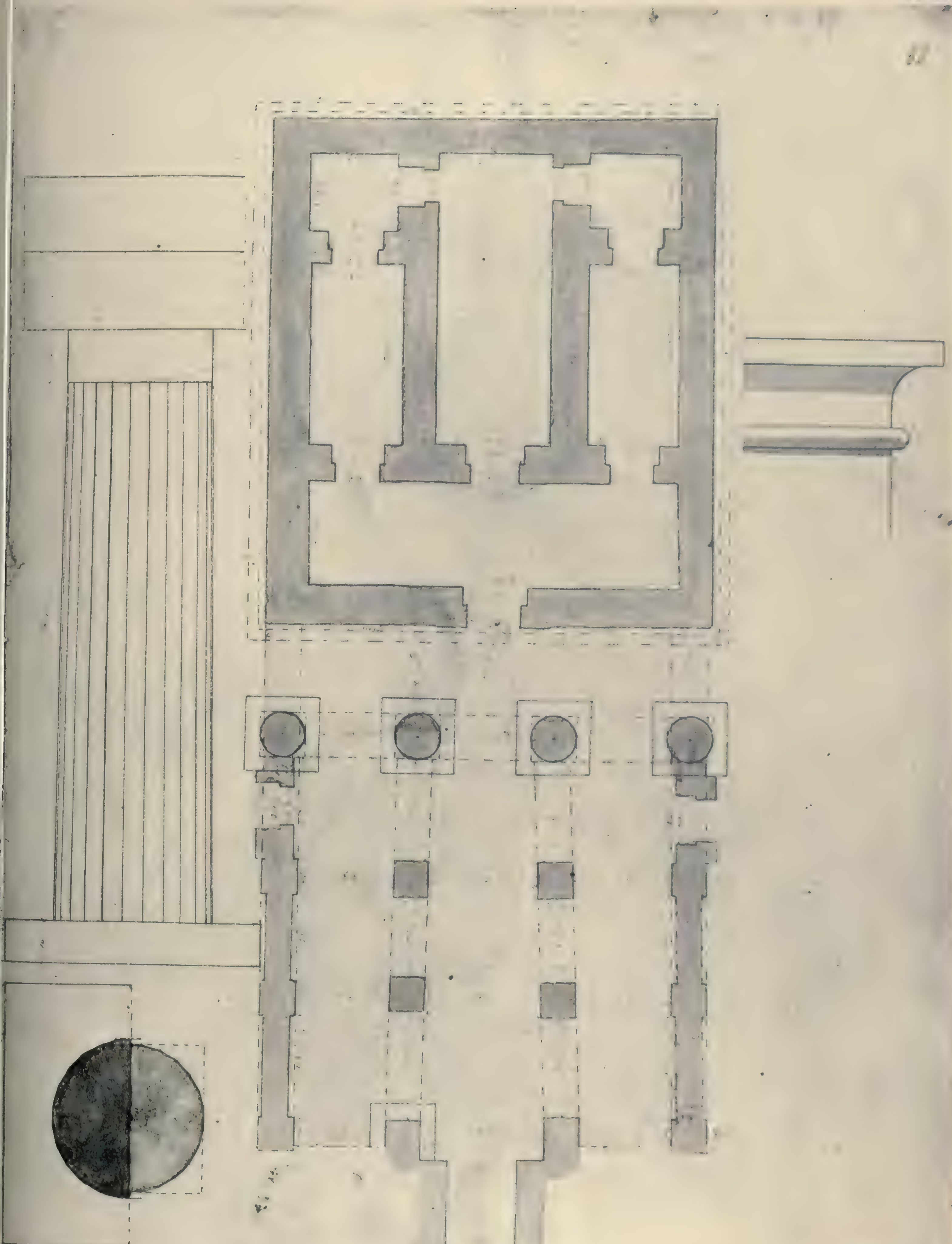
The whole is built of the rather coarse local sandstone. The finest quality has been selected for the temple. The plan, plate XXXIV unfortunately does not show the points of the compass. The temple inclosure has its central axis from East to West, on sloping ground, each Pylon being at a slightly higher level than the preceeding. The temple lies at the highest level and faces East towards the Nile. Out side the first Pylon and going down to the river's edge are the remains of an approch flanked on either side by stone walls. The temple was not, at first, as we now find it. The central chamber as we see it on the plan, plate XXXIV, was the original *cella*. Chambers were added West, North, South and East, but that to the East which formed a small Hypostyle Hall has vanished. One or two broken capitals were lying on the ground when these notes were made in January 1894. It is said that this Hypostyle Hall was overthrown by an earthquake in 1868.

Somers Clarke.

TABLE DES MATIÈRES.



ADD. MS. 29837. Folio 114. Temple at 'Amada. View from S.W.



ADD. MS 29845 Folio 88. Temple at 'Amada. Plan & details

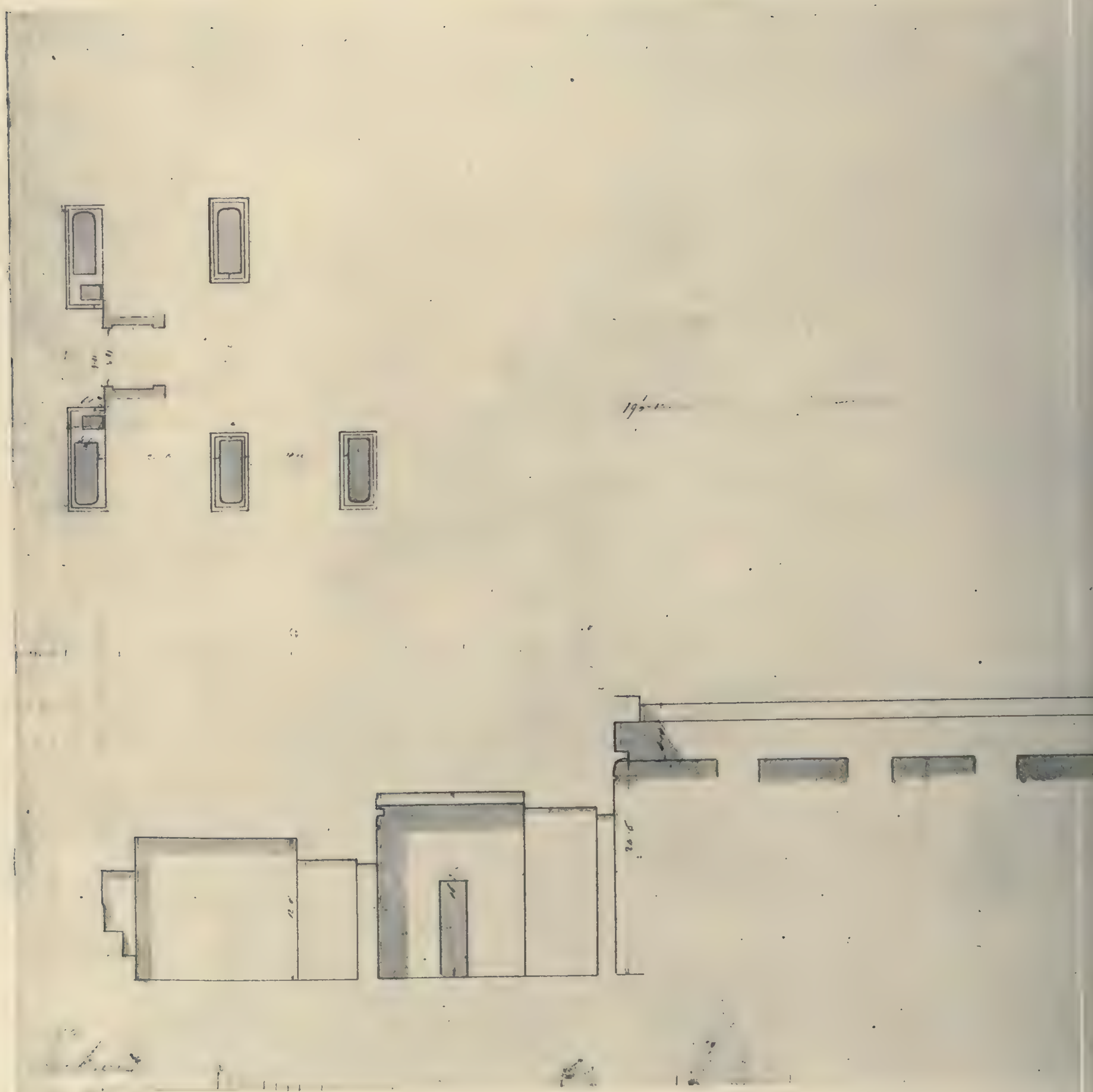


ADD MS [illegible] Fol. [illegible] Temple at 'Amada: Longitudinal and transverse sections

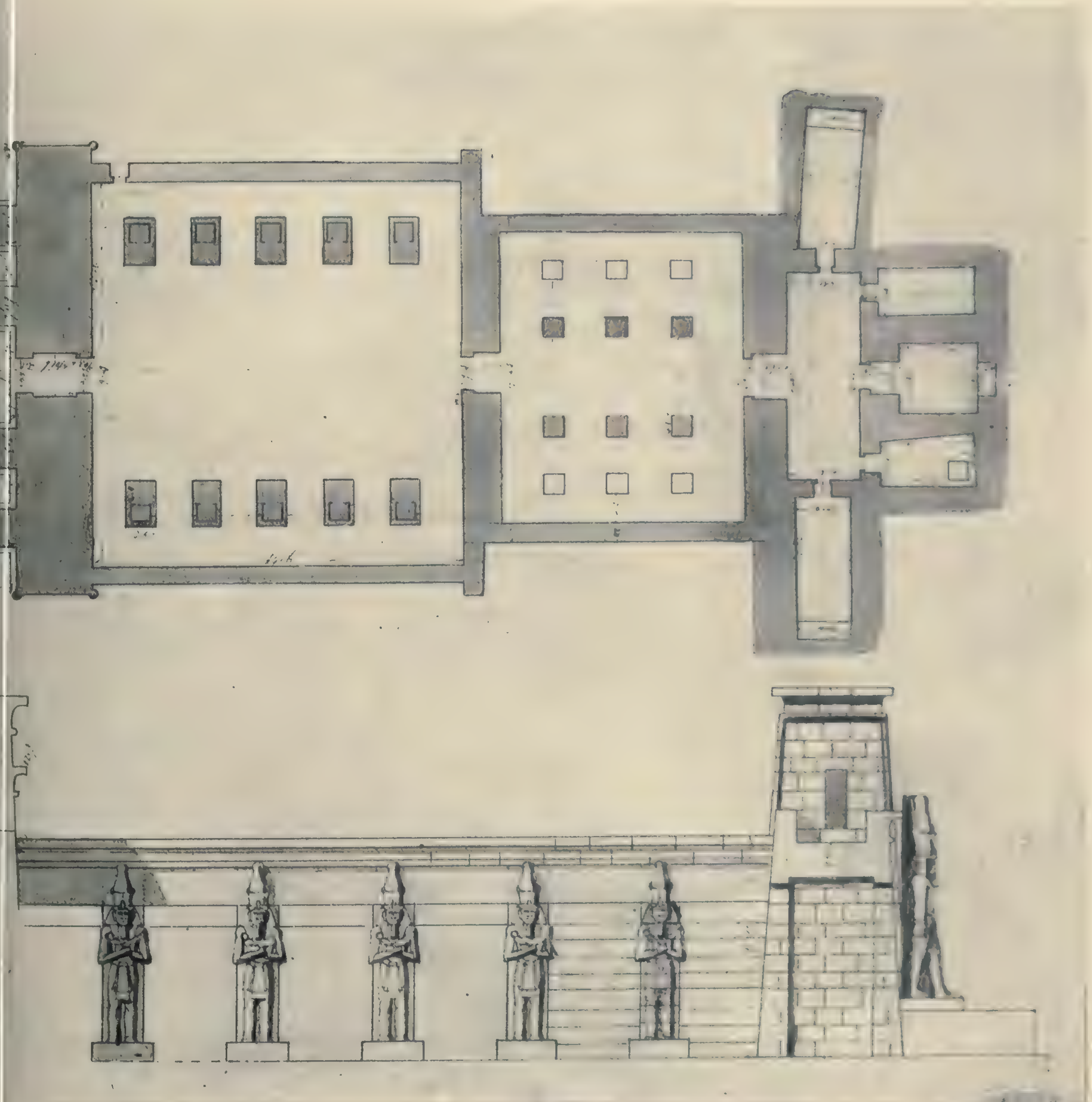
84
76



Add. MS 29837, Folio 76. Temple at Es Sebu'a. View from the East.



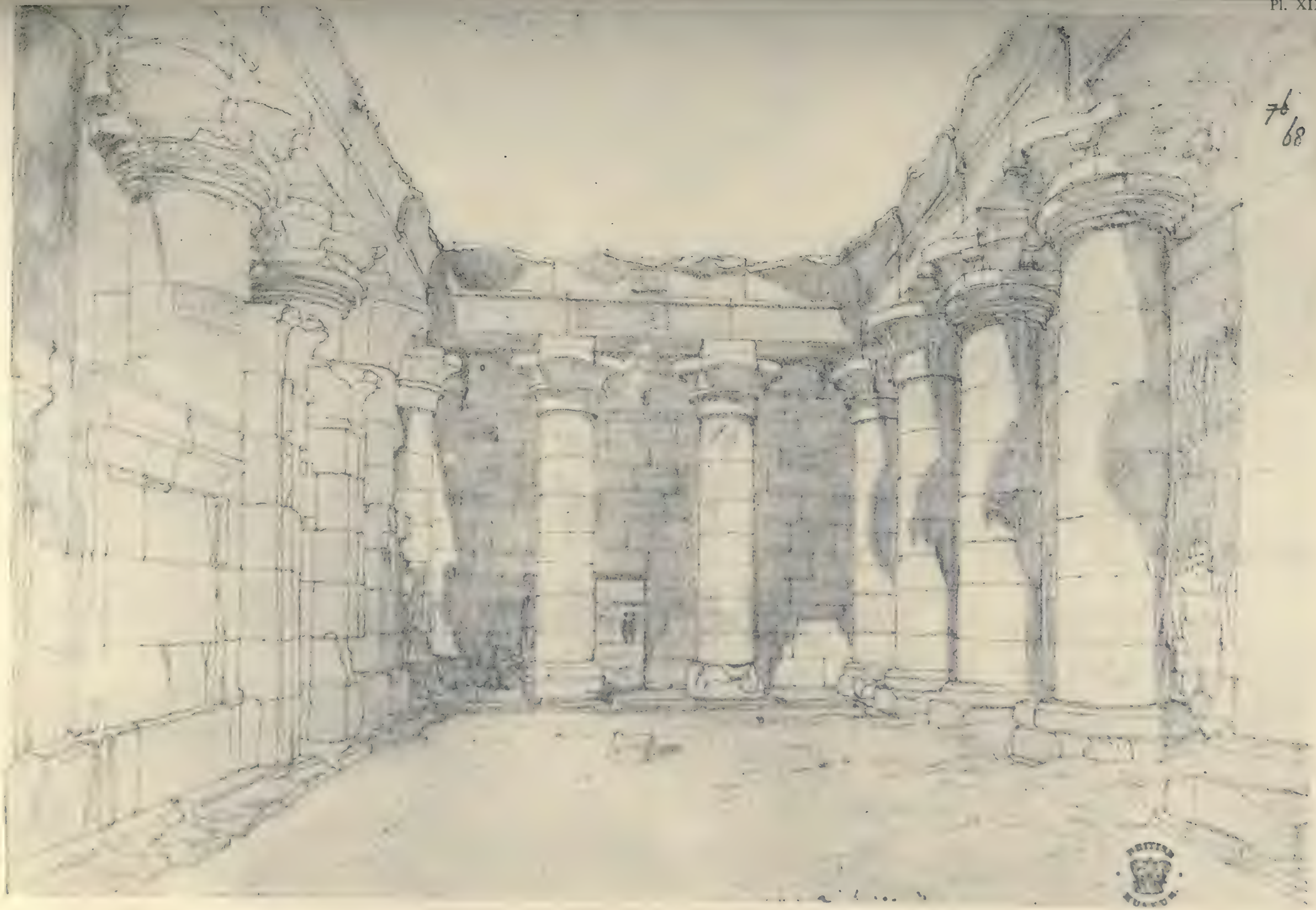
ADD. MS. 29845 Folio 92. 7



at Es Sabû'a, Plan & Sections.



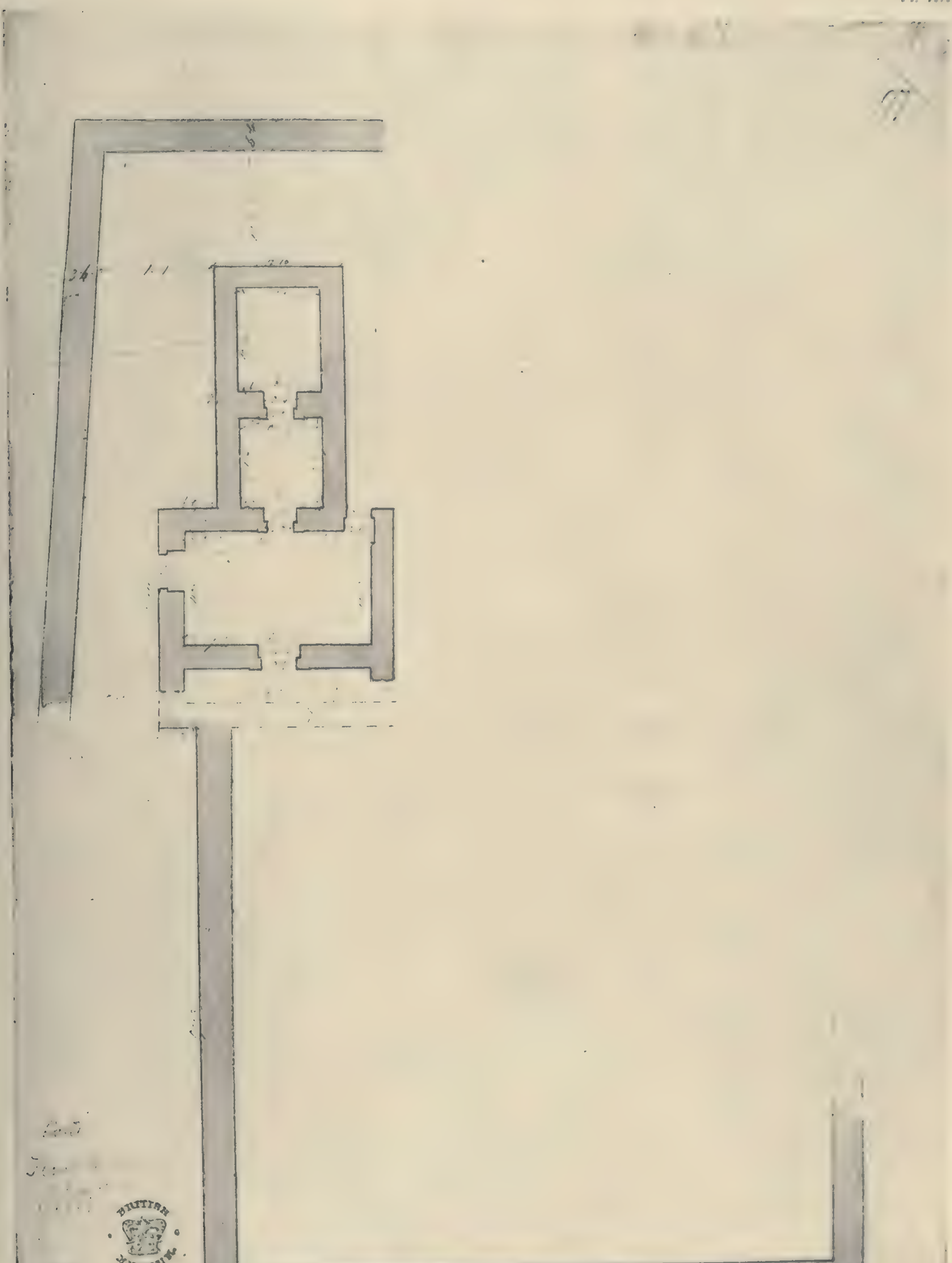
ADD MS 29837 Folio 66. Temple at Miharrakah. View from South East.



ADD. MS. 29837 Folio 68. Temple at Miharrakah. View of interior.



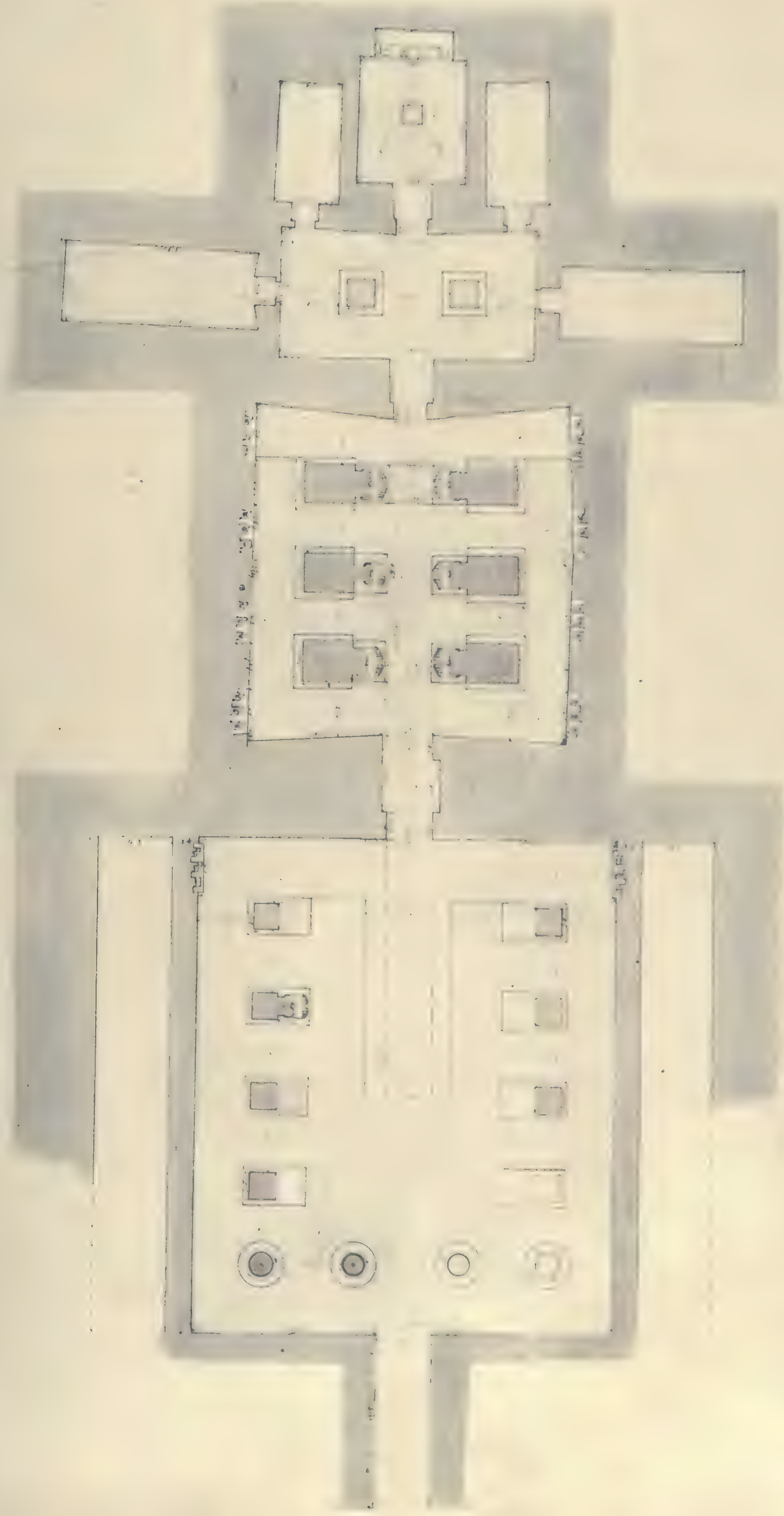
Add. MS. [illegible] Folio [illegible] Temple at Kûrta (now destroyed). View from South East

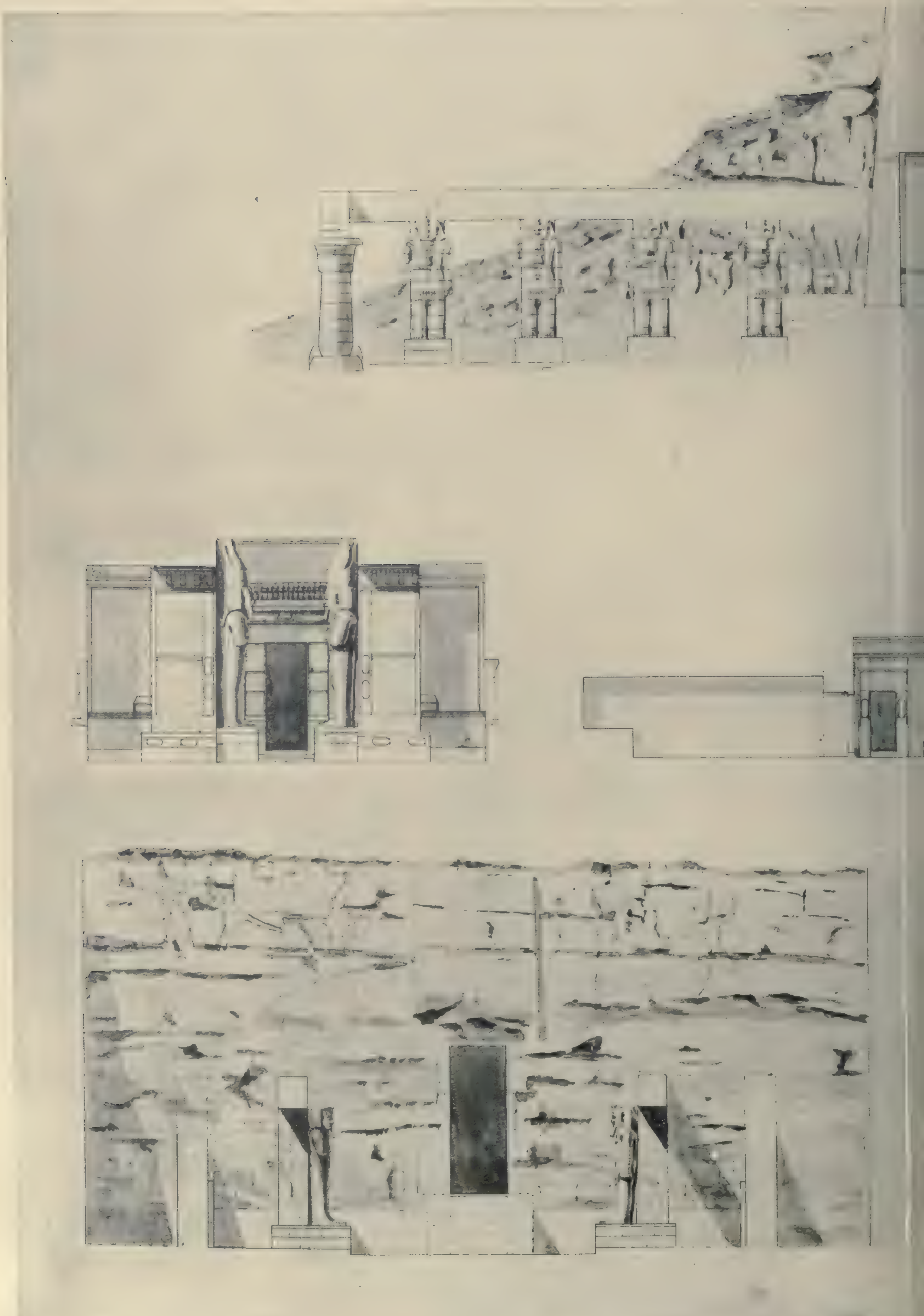


ADD. MS. 29845 Folio 97. Temple at Ḳûrta (now destroyed). General Plan.

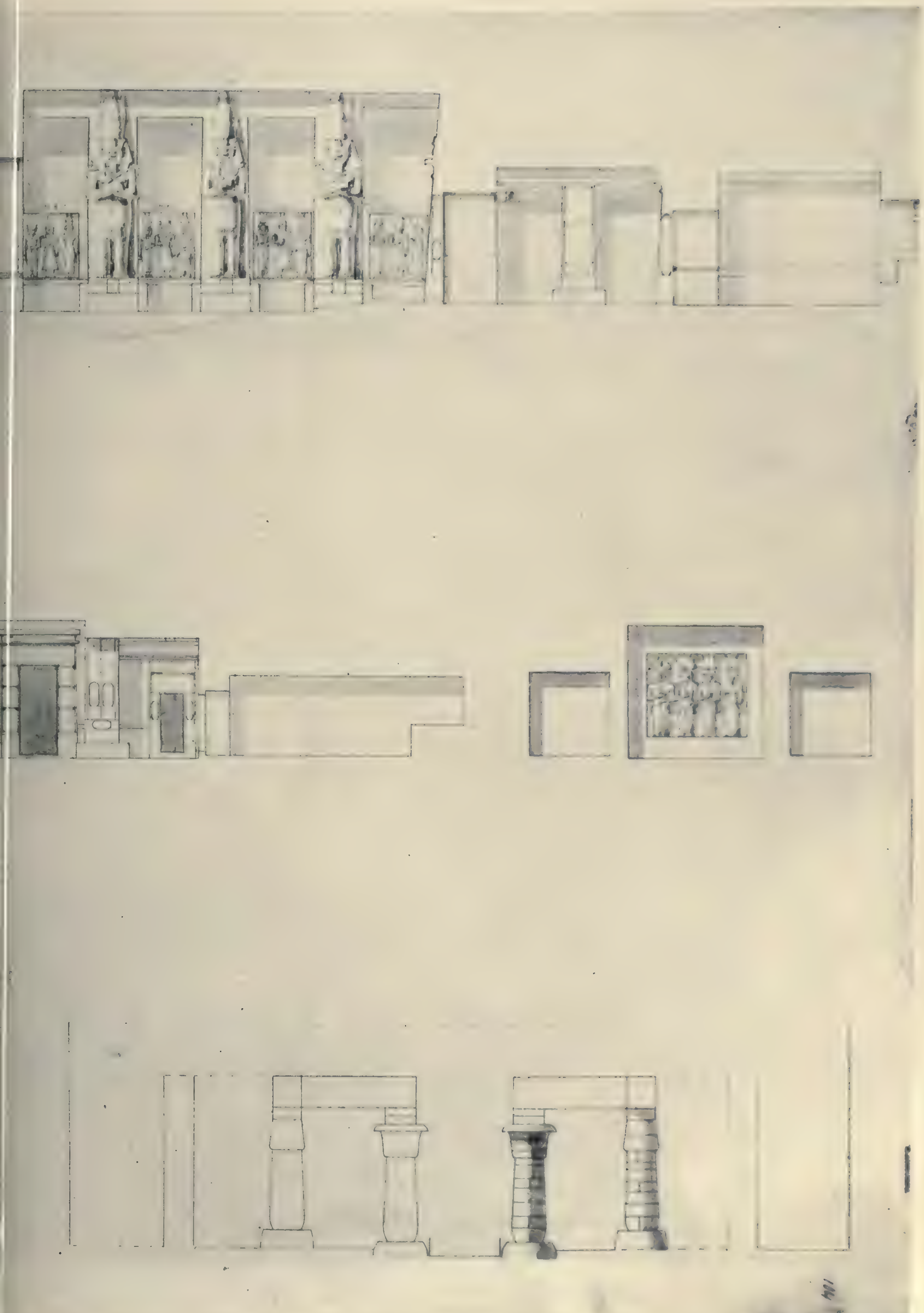


ADD MS. [illegible] Folio 9. Temple at Gyrf Hùsein. View from South.





ADD. MS. 29843 Fo



. Temple at Garf Ḥusên. Sections.

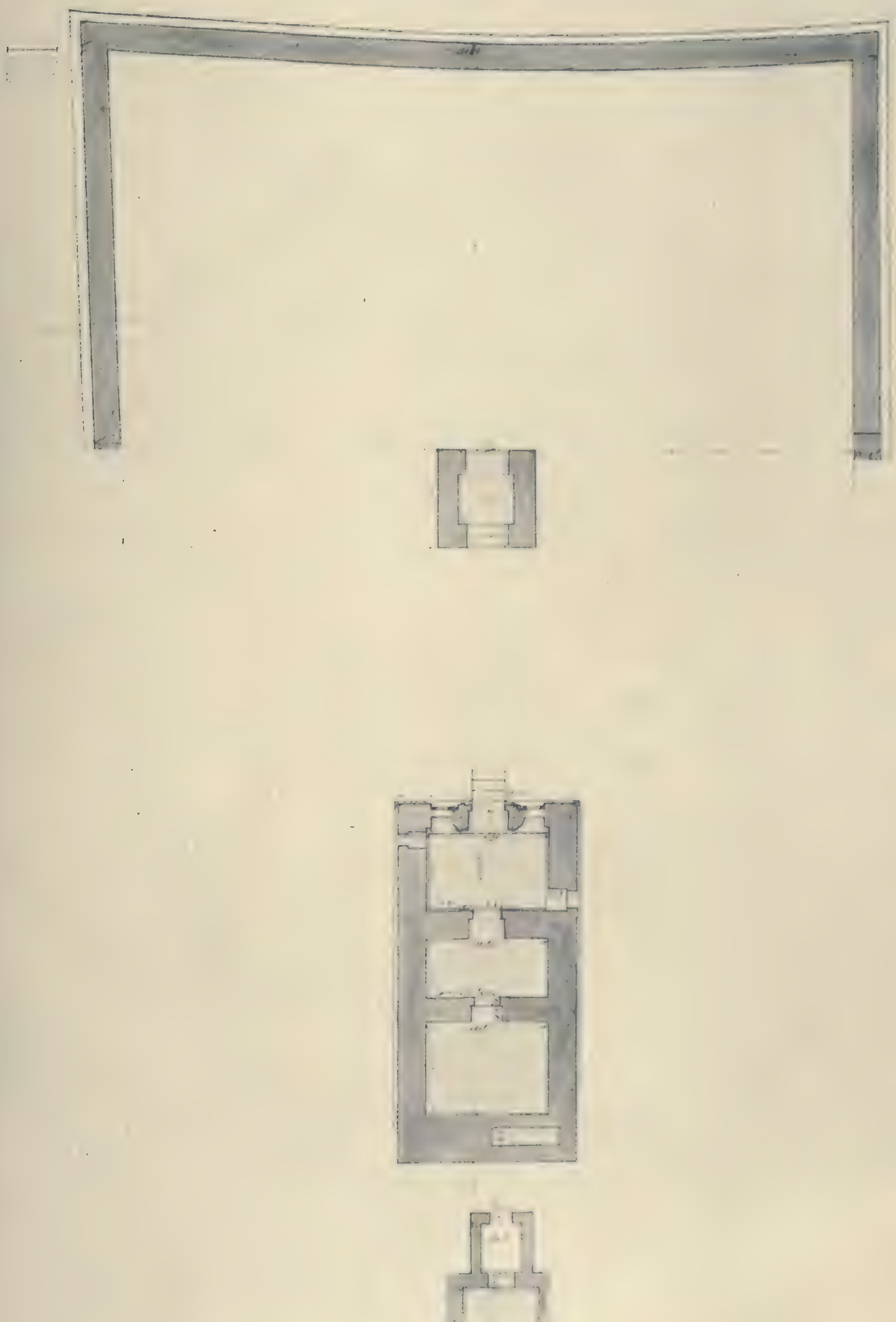


Add. MS. [illegible] Folio 2. Temple at Dendur. View from North East

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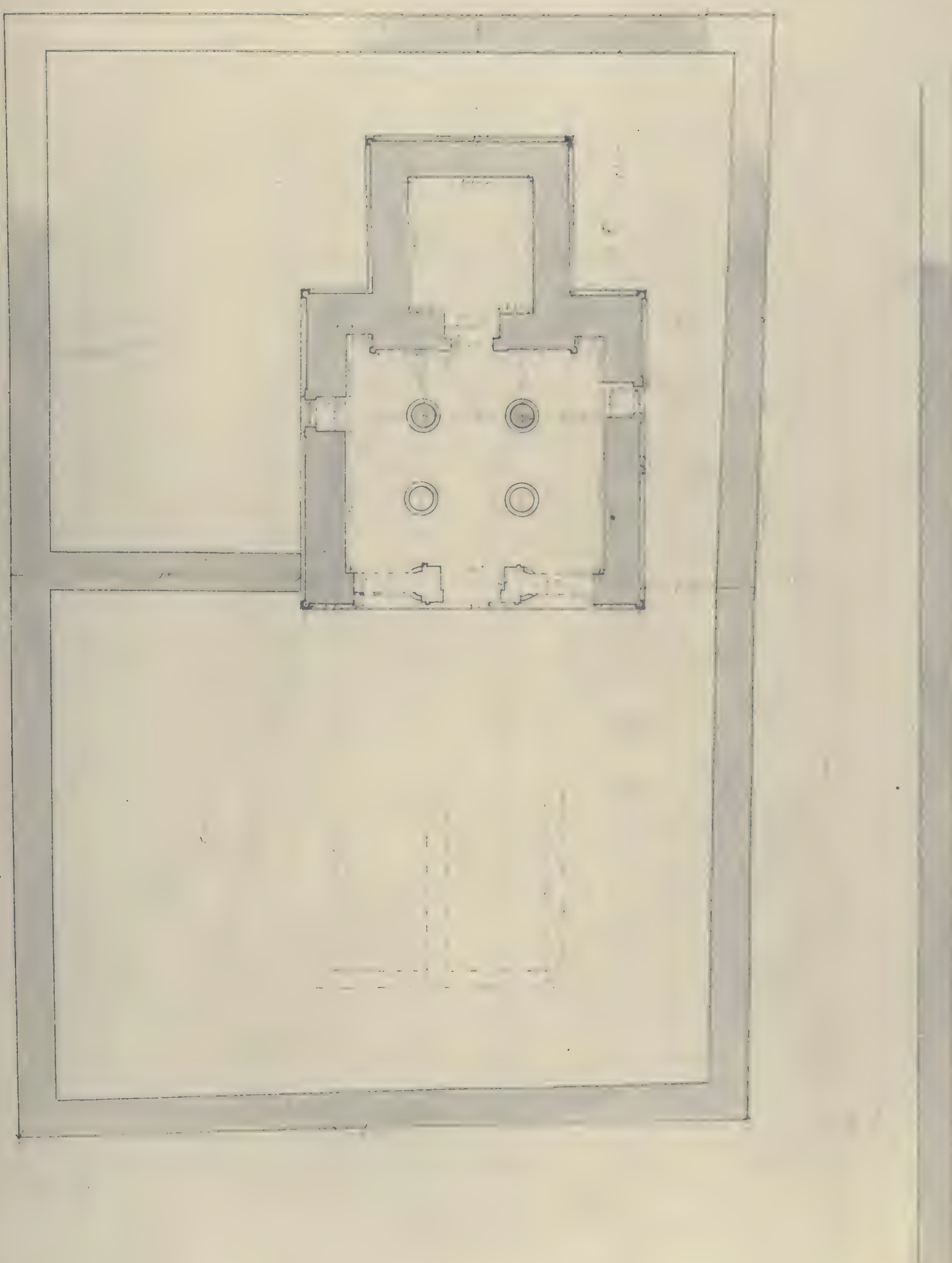
ADD. MS. 29837 Folio 4. Temple at Dendûr. View of Main Building.



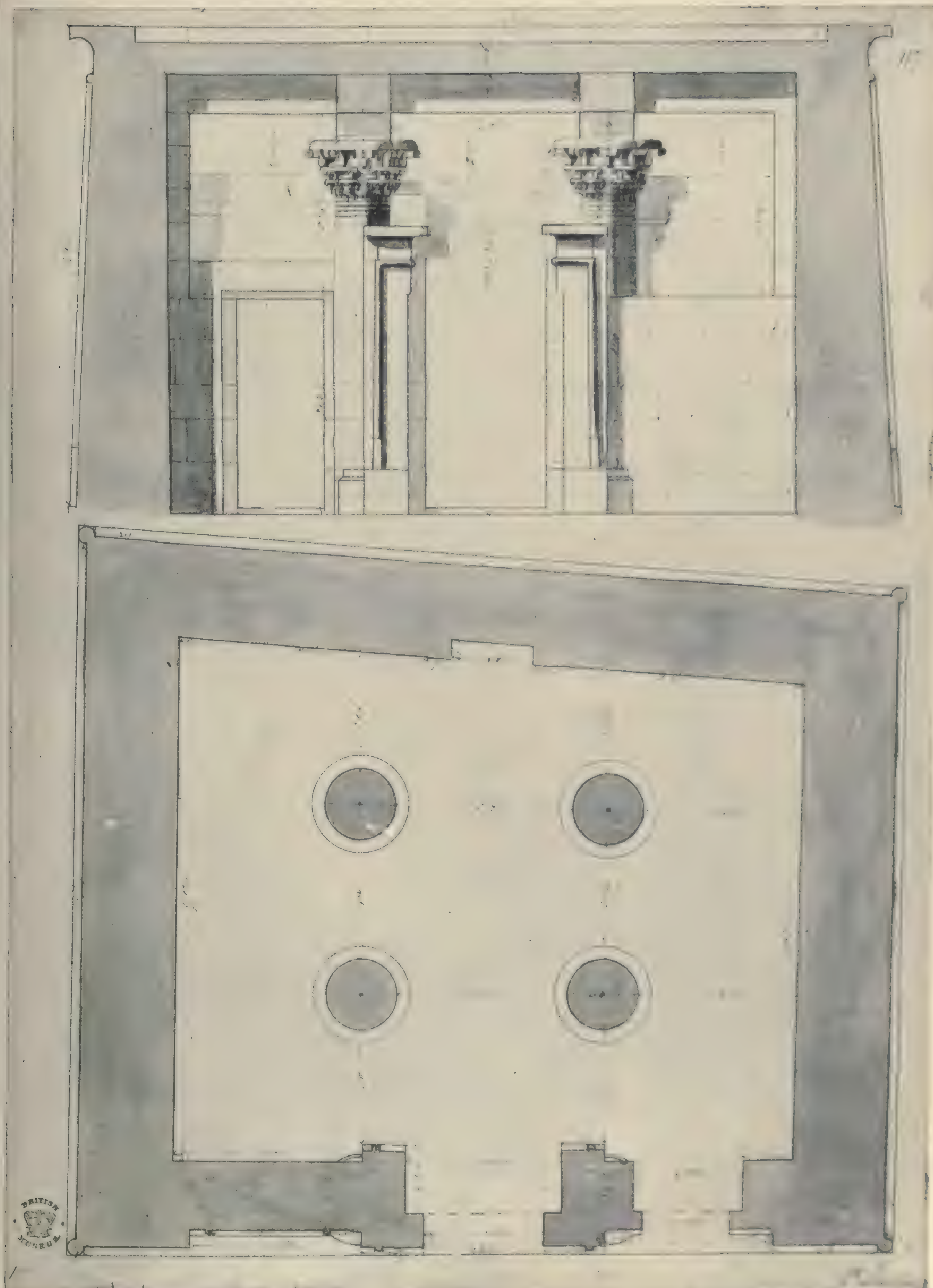
107



ADD. MS. 29843 Folio 107. Temple at Dendûr. Plan, section & elevation of front of Main Building.



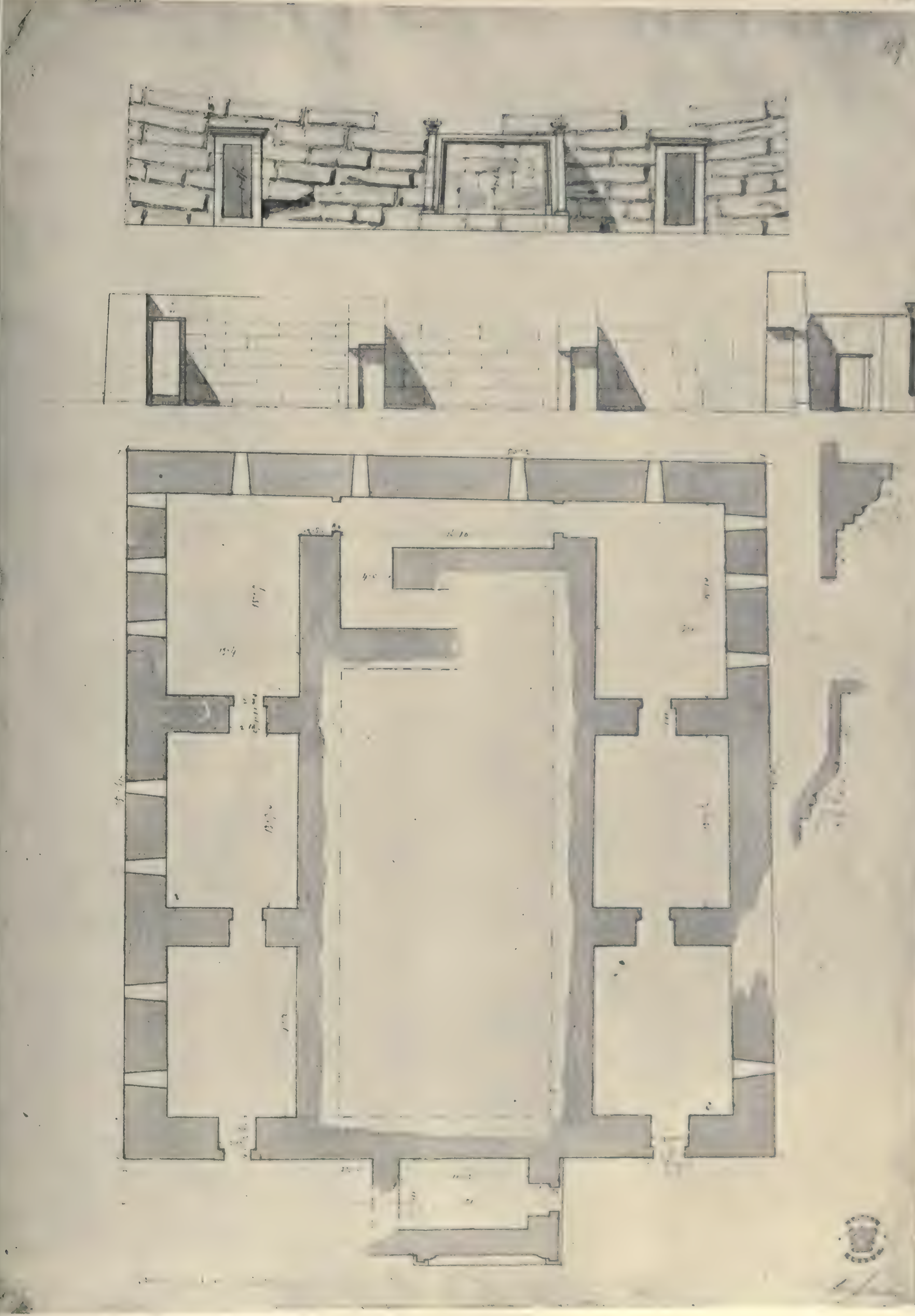
ADD. MS. 29845 Folio 116. Temple at Tâlah "A" Plan.



ADD. MS 29845 Folio 117. Temple at Tâfah "B" Plan & Section.





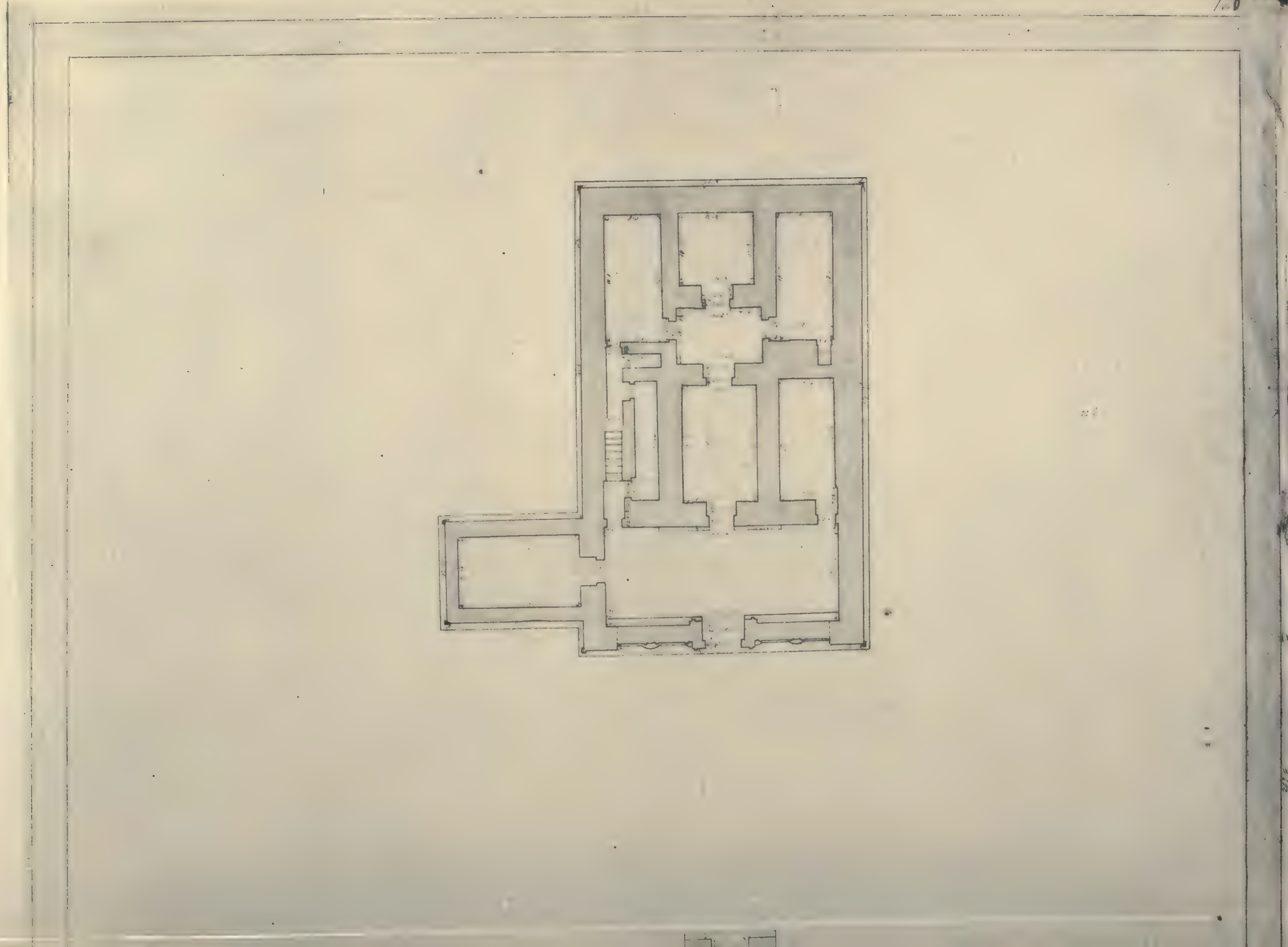


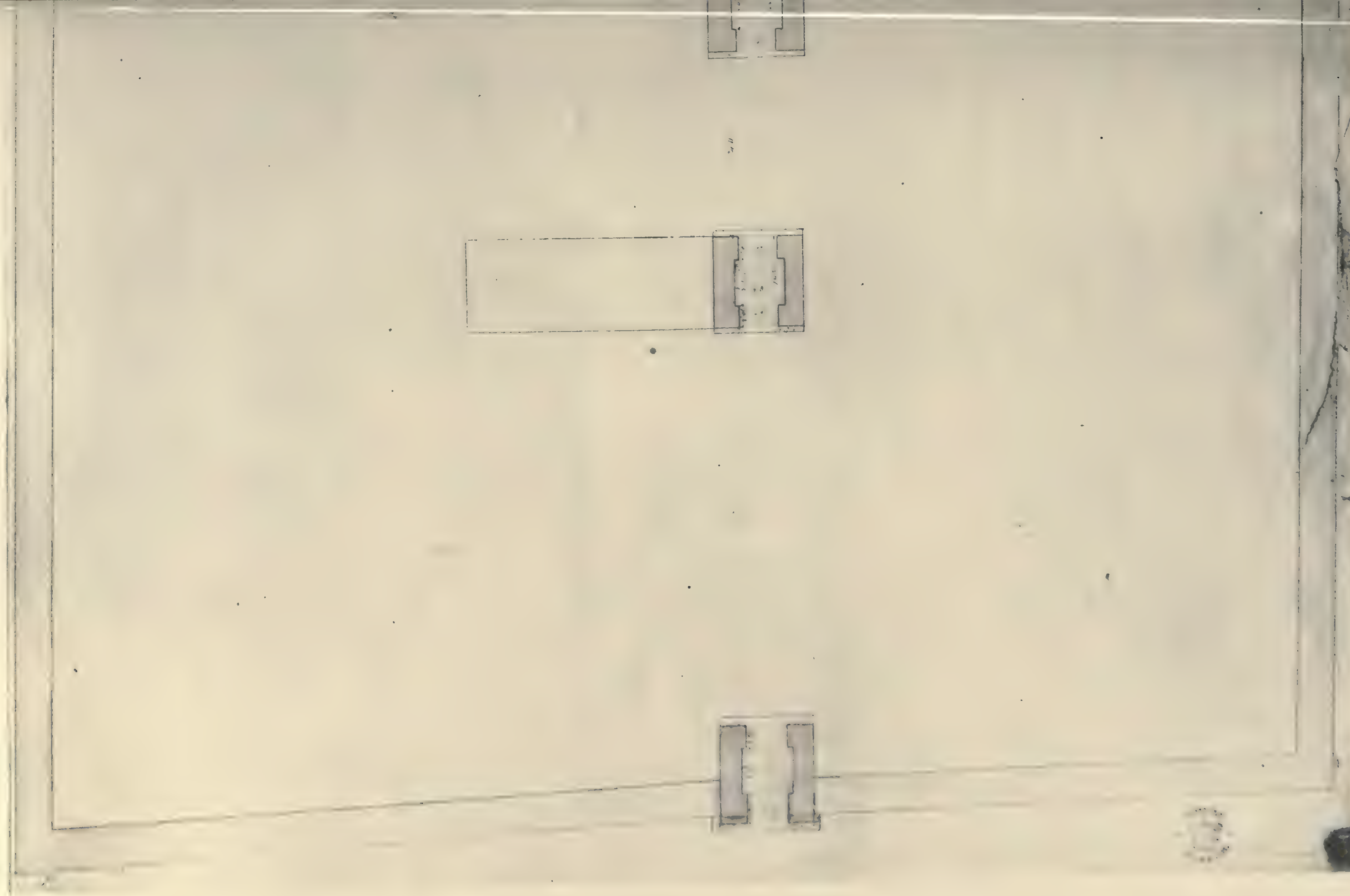
ADD. MS. 29845 Folio 119. House at Tâfah. Plan, section & elevation

Pl. XXXIII



Pl. XXXIV

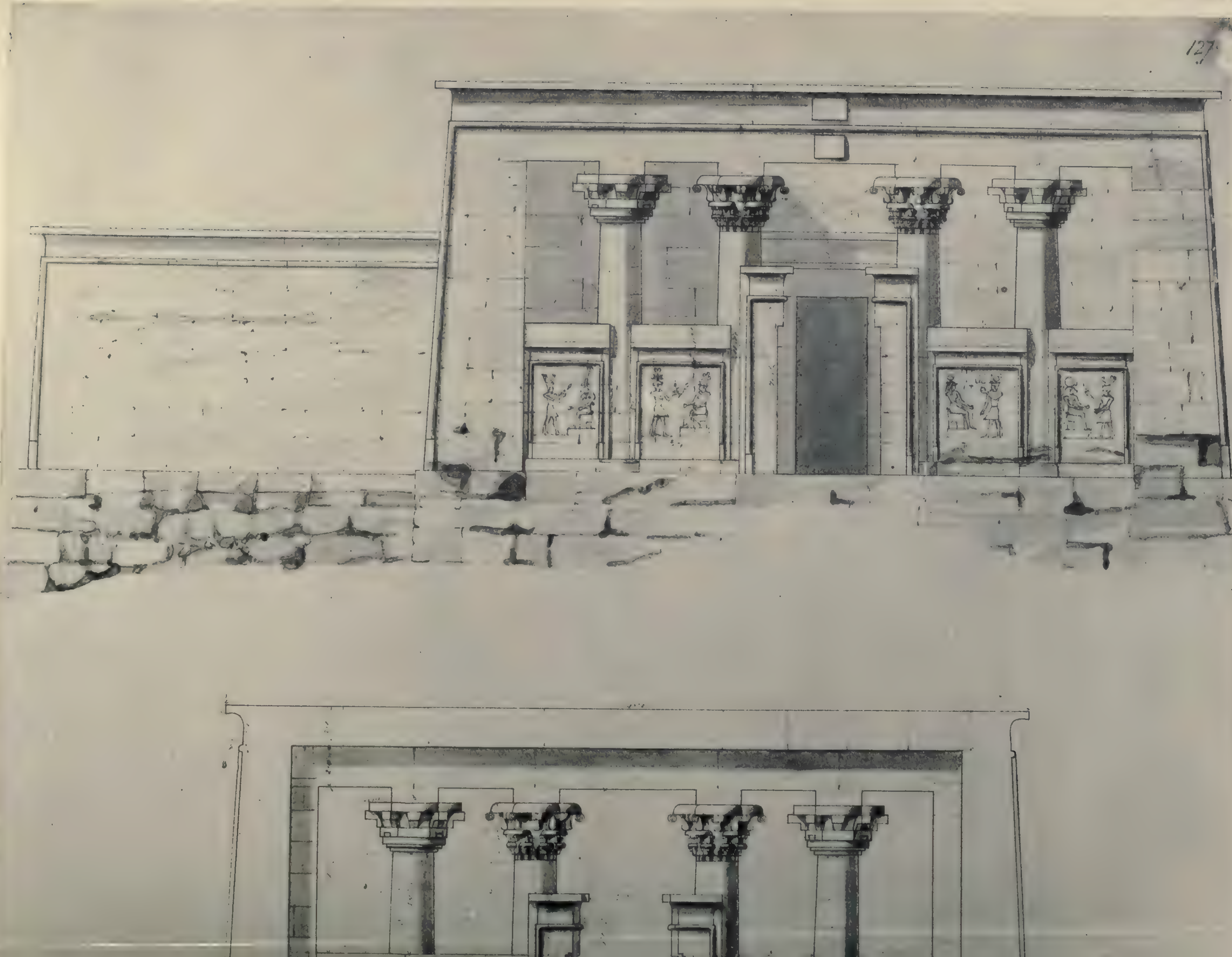


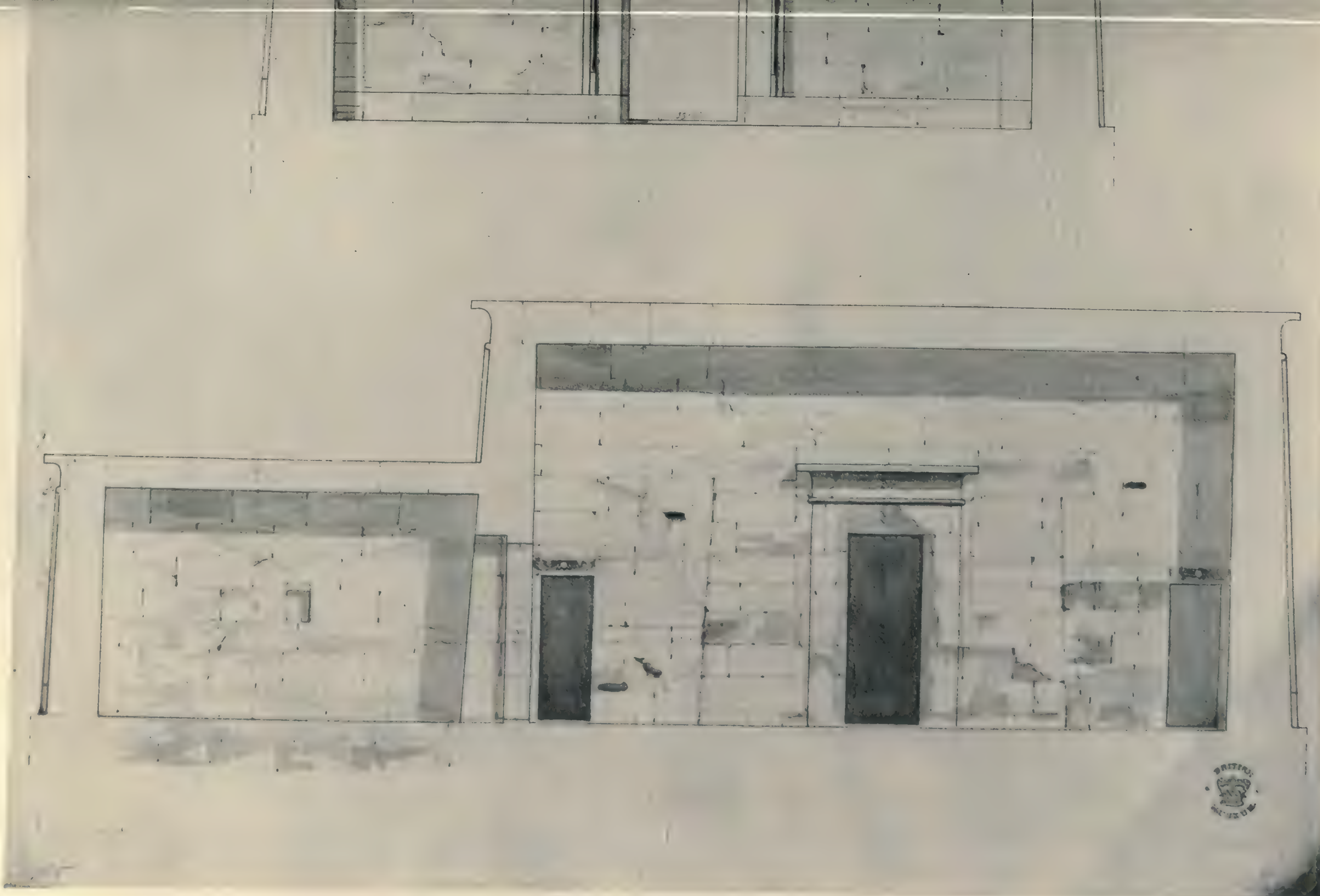


ADD. MS. 29845 Folio 123. Temple at Dâbûd. Plan

Pl. XXXV

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Add. MS 29848 Folio 127 Temple at Dâbûd. Sections & elevation.

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